

**INTERPRETATIONS & APPLICATIONS
OF BUILDING CODES & REGULATIONS #91-4**



CODE SECTION : UBC App. Chapter 31.

09/08/98

SUBJECT : TEMPORARY TENTS AND CANOPIES

Definition:

Temporary tent is a tent erected for a period of less than 180 days.

All tents and canopies must be approved for compliance to the City of Scottsdale zoning ordinance.

All canopies exceeding 400 square feet and all tents (enclosed) exceeding 200 square feet require a permit from Rural /Metro Fire Department.

In addition all membrane structures used for the gathering together of fifty (50) or more persons **and** enclosed at least fifty (50) percent along its perimeter require a building permit.[50 persons @ 15 sf/person = 750 sf]

Engineering Design

All membrane structures shall be designed in accordance with the structural criteria of the Uniform Building Code and developed by an engineer or architect registered in the State of Arizona to practice as such.

Exempt Tents

It is not required to submit structural designs for temporary tents under any of the following conditions:

1. Tents used for the gathering together of fewer than fifty (50) persons .[50 persons @ 15 sf/person = 750 sf] (do not require a building permit).
2. Tents enclosed less than fifty (50) percent along its perimeter (do not require a building permit).
3. Tents with a floor area of less than 3,000 square feet (279 m²)
4. A city structural waiver form signed by the tent owner or owner's authorized agent.

Plan Review Submittal Requirement - Tents and Canopies

When a building permit is required, the following items shall be submitted to determine conformity to building and electrical codes.

- 1) Indicate length of temporary use.
- 2) Provide dimensioned site plan indicating proximity to streets, buildings, etc.
- 3) Indicate type of use.
- 4) Indicate location and width of exits when tent is enclosed 50% or more.
- 5) Provide exit signs and emergency lighting when tent is enclosed 50% or more and used at night.
- 6) Indicate maximum occupant load.
- 7) If partitions are used, provide construction details along with type of bracing.
- 8) Provide lateral design and tie down requirements for tent structures per manufacturer when the area exceeds 3,000 Sq Ft and the structure is enclosed 50% or more.
OR
Provide a city structural waiver form signed by the tent owner or owner's authorized agent.
- 9) Provide electrical single line diagram with load calculations when electrical service is from a utility company source.
- 10) See Fire Department and Special Event requirements.